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LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit herewith a letter dated 3 November 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, H.E. Mr. Mate Granic, addressed to you.

I would request your kind assistance in distributing this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 3 November 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Once again I must draw your attention to the tragic deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in central Bosnia, where 150,000 Bosnian Croats are exposed to utmost suffering and threatened with coerced exodus.

The most dramatic situation is in the Croat-majority enclave around the town of Vares, where more than 15,000 Bosnian Croats are fleeing the area under heavy attacks launched by the Muslim armed forces. In the biggest single Bosnian Croat exodus witnessed so far, they are seeking refuge through the Serb-controlled territory. The goal of this offensive by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Army is to take full control of the Bosnian Croat enclave of Vares and to expel non-Muslim civilians.

The Bosnian Croat enclave of Novi Travnik is also in serious immediate jeopardy, threatened by new Muslim armed attacks. It has been surrounded and cut off from any aid for almost six months. There are sufficient reasons to believe that Bosnian Croats in Novi Travnik, like those in Vares, will be very soon driven out in the same pattern of ethnic cleansing by Muslim forces.

As a consequence of these tragic developments, Croatia is faced with a new wave of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which my Government will not be able to sustain without the action and help of the international community. Further, the situation may significantly hamper my Government's efforts to help and care for numerous thousands of Muslim refugees in Croatia when faced with possible public discontent.

I must express sincere dissatisfaction with the failure of the Security Council and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to take effective action and protect endangered Bosnian Croat civilians. The disturbing example in this context is the lack of cooperation by UNPROFOR to assist in evacuation of the wounded Croats from Nova Bila hospital. UNPROFOR rejected requests to facilitate air medical transport ("the white line") to the Nova Bila hospital. Considering the deteriorating medical and humanitarian situation in that area, the Government of Croatia respectfully urges UNPROFOR operating on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina to reconsider its policy and immediately take necessary measures and to treat both of the sides involved with equitable consideration.

The President of Croatia, H.E. Mr. Franjo Tudjman, and the Government have considered with utmost concern the reports of atrocities committed on all sides in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and have taken numerous measures through my office in respect of alleged violations by the Bosnian Croat side.

There are sufficient reasons to believe that the situation in central Bosnia can only deteriorate. Therefore, the Government of Croatia requests an emergency meeting of the Security Council, with a view to addressing these

issues and to take urgently appropriate measures. We respectfully request the immediate establishment of safe areas in all encircled enclaves in central Bosnia on the same principles and in the spirit of Security Council resolution 824 (1993). I must remind the Council that the Government of Croatia addressed to the Security Council on 1 August 1993 a letter (S/26211) urging the establishment of safe areas around Vares and other Bosnian Croat enclaves.

Latest developments in the Vares area and elsewhere in central Bosnia prove the justification and necessity of the repeated demands of my Government for the urgent convening of the Security Council aimed at addressing the fate of the Croats in central Bosnia.

These tragic developments underline the importance of the peace initiative by the President of Croatia, transmitted to the Council on 2 November 1993, which offers a comprehensive solution to the humanitarian and political crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina (S/26681).

(Signed) Mate GRANIC
Minister for Foreign Affairs